

S/N NEW FILING

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	HEINTZEMAN ET AL.	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	NEW FILING	Group Art Unit:	UNKNOWN
Filed:	HEREWITH	Docket No.:	8477.99USC2
Title:	COMPUTERIZED APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AWARDING CREDITS TO PERSONS FOR TRAVEL RELATED PURCHASES (AS AMENDED HEREIN)		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

'Express Mail' mailing label number: EV004049931US

Date of Deposit: November 20, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By   
Name: Chris Stordahl

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

In the Title

Please change the title to read: --COMPUTERIZED APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AWARDING CREDITS TO PERSONS FOR TRAVEL RELATED PURCHASES--.

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A computerized system and method awards credits to persons who book travel-related reservations. The system receives a booking format which includes a plurality of fields. At least one of the fields includes information identifying a travel-related reservation. The system further transmits a code which identifies a person who created or initiated the travel-related reservation.

Upon receiving the travel-related reservation, the system cumulatively assigns credits to the person identified by the code based upon the travel-related reservation. Therefore, persons who enter travel-related reservations may build up credits over time and use those credits to receive a particular incentive such as an award or prize.--

### **In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-40.

Please add new claims 41-63, as follows.

41. (NEW) A computerized incentive system for awarding credits to persons who book travel-related reservations, the system comprising:

- (a) a computerized reservation system connected to a network;
- (b) an interface device connected to the network and configured so that a user of the interface device has access to the computerized reservation system;
- (b) a reservation facility computer system connected to the network and thereby accessible to the user accessing the computerized reservation system, the reservation facility computer system configured so that the user may book a travel-related reservation; and
- (c) an award system connected to the network, the award system being configured to receive data concerning the travel-related reservation, wherein the award system assigns credits to a person for whom the travel-related reservation has been booked upon verification that an event relating to the travel-related reservation has occurred.

42. (NEW) The award system of claim 41 wherein the data concerning the travel-related reservation includes a code identifying the person for whom the travel related reservation is booked.

43. (NEW) The award system of claim 41 further configured to determine the total credits previously awarded to the person for whom the travel related reservation is booked and add the credits assigned to the credits previously awarded thereby creating a cumulative credit total that is stored in the award system.

44. (NEW) The award system of claim 41 wherein the event occurrence to be verified is the fulfillment of the travel-related reservation.

45. (NEW) The award system of claim 44 wherein the fulfillment of the travel-related reservation is accomplished by a stay in and check-out of the facility for which the travel-related reservation had been booked.

46. (NEW) The award system of claim 45 wherein the fulfillment of the reservation is performed by the person for whom the travel-related reservation has been booked.

47. (NEW) A computer implemented method of awarding credits to persons who book travel-related reservations, the method comprising:

(a) transmitting travel-related reservation information from a user via an interface device connected to a network to a computerized reservation system connected to the network;

(b) communicating the travel-related reservation information to a reservation facility computer system connected to the network; and

(c) communicating the travel-related reservation information to an awards system, wherein the awards system processes the travel-related reservation information and awards credits to persons for whom the travel-related reservation have been booked upon the awards system verifying that an event relating to the travel-related reservation booked has occurred.

48. (NEW) The computer implemented method of claim 47 wherein the act of processing the travel related reservation information includes processing of data representing the revenue generated from the travel-related reservation and calculating credits to be awarded based on the revenue generated from the travel-related reservation.

49. (NEW) The computer implemented method of claim 47 wherein the act of processing the travel-related reservation information includes determining the type and length of the travel related reservation and assigning a predetermined number of credits based on the type and length of the travel-related reservation.

50. (NEW) The computer implemented method of claim 47 wherein the data concerning the travel-related reservation includes a code identifying the person for whom the travel related reservation is booked.

51. (NEW) The computer implemented method of claim 47 wherein the event occurrence to be verified is the fulfillment of the travel-related reservation.

52. (NEW)The computer implemented method of claim 51 wherein the fulfillment of the travel-related reservation is accomplished by a completed stay in a hotel room by the person for whom the travel-related reservation has been made.

53. (NEW)A computer implemented method of awarding credits to persons completing travel-related purchases, the method comprising:

(a) transmitting a purchaser identification code and travel-related purchase information via an interface device connected to a network to an award system connected to the network upon the completion of a travel related purchase;

(b) processing of the travel-related purchase information by the award system to verify that the travel-related purchase is complete and calculate the credits to be assigned to the person completing the travel-related purchase; and

(c) assigning the calculated credits to the person completing the travel-related purchase, wherein the credits assigned may be exchanged for an award.

54. (NEW)The computer implemented method of claim 53 wherein the interface device is connected to the network via a wireless connection.

55. (NEW)The computer implemented method of claim 53, wherein the act of processing the travel-related purchase information by the award system to calculate the credits to be assigned includes processing the revenue generated from a travel related purchase to determine the credits to be awarded.

56. (NEW)The computer implemented method of claim 53, wherein the act of processing the travel-related purchase information to determine the credits to be assigned includes processing information identifying the type of travel related purchase and the length of the travel related purchase.

57. (NEW)The computer implemented method of claim 53, wherein the act of completing travel-related purchases is a stay in and checkout of a facility at which the travel-related purchase has been made.

58. (NEW)The computer implemented method of claim 53, wherein credits assigned may not be exchanged for an award until the act of verifying that the travel-related purchase is complete has been performed.

59. (NEW) A computerized incentive system for awarding credits to persons who book travel-related reservations, the system comprising:

- (a) an interface device connected to the network;
- (b) a reservation facility computer system connected to the network and configured so that a user of the interface device may access the reservation facility computer system to book a travel-related reservation; and

- (c) an award system connected to the network, the award system being configured to receive data concerning the travel-related reservation, wherein the award system assigns credits to a person for whom the travel-related reservation has been booked, the award system being further configured to verify fulfillment of the travel-related reservation and decrement credits previously assigned to the person for travel-related reservations that are not fulfilled.

60. (NEW) The computerized incentive system of claim 59 including a computerized reservation system connected to a network for communicating travel related reservations to the reservation facility computer system.

61. (NEW) The award system of claim 59 further configured to prevent the use of credits assigned until fulfillment of the travel related reservation booked.

62. (NEW) A computer implemented method of awarding credits to persons who book travel-related reservations, the method comprising:

- (a) transmitting travel-related reservation information and purchaser identification information via an interface device connected to a network to an award system connected to the network;

- (b) processing of the travel-related reservation information by the award system to calculate the credits to be assigned to the purchaser; and

- (c) assigning the calculated credits to the person for whom the travel-related reservation has been booked, wherein the credits assigned may not be exchanged for an award until the award system verifies fulfillment of the travel related reservation.

63. (NEW) The computer implemented method of claim 62, further comprising the act of decrementing the credits assigned upon verification that the travel related reservation will not be fulfilled.

Remarks

This is a continuation of S/N 09/598,586, filed June 21, 2000, which is a continuation of S/N 08/892,563, filed 7/14/1997, which is a file wrapper continuation of S/N 08/439,626, filed 5/12/1995, which is a continuation of S/N 08/385,381, filed 2/7/1995, which is a continuation of S/N 08/143,453, filed 10/26/1993. S/N 08/143,453 was abandoned in favor of S/N 08/385,381, which ultimately matured into U.S. Patent No. 5,483,444. S/N 08/439,626 has been abandoned in favor of 08/892,563, which remains under examination.

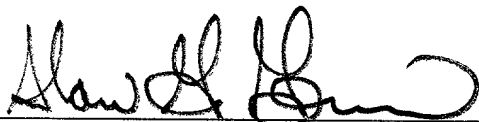
In the present application, claims 1-40 have been canceled, and claims 41-63 have been added. Minor corrections have been made to the specification and title, without the addition of any new matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: 11/20/01

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan G. Gorman  
Reg. No. 38,472

Serial No. NEW FILING  
Docket No. 8477.99USC2

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the title:**

The title has been amended as follows:

[SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AWARDING CREDITS TO PERSONS WHO BOOK TRAVEL-RELATED RESERVATIONS] COMPUTERIZED APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AWARDING CREDITS TO PERSONS FOR TRAVEL RELATED PURCHASES

**In the specification:**

Paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, has been amended as follows:

A computerized system and method awards credits to persons who book travel-related reservations. The system receives a booking format which includes a plurality of fields. At least one of the fields includes information identifying a travel-related reservation. The system further transmits a code which identifies a person who created or initiated the travel-related reservation. Upon receiving the travel-related reservation, the system [assigns cumulative] cumulatively assigns credits to the person identified by the code based upon the travel-related reservation. Therefore, persons who enter travel-related reservations may build up credits over time and use those credits to receive a particular incentive such as an award or prize.

**In the claims**

Claims 1-40 have been canceled.

Claims 41-63 are new.

